

D-430
Nathan Commercial Block
Cambridge
c. 1897
Private

The Nathan commercial block, located at 319 High Street, was used variously as a jewelry store, bank, or other office and business purposes since its construction around 1897. The two-story, five-bay pressed brick façade distinguishes this building along with original pressed metal cornices and an intact first floor storefront. The High Street elevation is unusual for its bridged alleyway with a second floor extension of the two-story structure. The storefront as well as the first floor office combines Victorian and neoclassical decorative elements common to the last decade of the nineteenth century.

The Nathan commercial block was erected by Meyer Nathan around 1897 as one of four principal brick buildings erected after the July 1892 that swept the center of Cambridge. The oldest issue of the Sanborn Insurance maps that post-date the fire indicates a building was erected on this site between 1896 and 1901. In 1901 the first floor was used as a jewelry store, and in later years, it served as a bank. Meyer family ownership of this property lasted until 1982.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-430

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Nathan Commercial Block
other

2. Location

street and number 319 High Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Victor H. and Linda M. MacSorley
street and number Box 760 telephone 410-745-5368
city, town St. Michaels state MD zip code 21663

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 250 folio 234
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 27 tax ID number 194684

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-430

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Nathan Commercial Block, located at 319 High Street in the center of the business district of Cambridge, Maryland, is a two-story, five-bay, brick structure erected between 1896 and 1900 according to the Sanborn Insurance maps. In contrast to the finely jointed pressed brick High Street elevation, the rear wall is laid in five-course common bond of ordinary wall brick. The building has a low sloping shed roof that descends from a parapet front wall. Unusual to this structure is the western most bay, which incorporates a through alley on the first story that provides access to the back of the lot. The alleyway is bridged by a second story extension of the commercial block joining another commercial block owned by the Nathan family.

The southeast (main) elevation of the two-story commercial block is an asymmetrical façade with a centrally located recessed entrance providing access to the first floor office space. A side door in the north bay opens into a staircase access to the second floor. The main entrance is defined by an undisturbed double door entrance with glazed doors topped by a large single-pane transom. There is a Victorian header molding between the double door entrance and the transom. Tongue-and-groove beaded boards cover the ceiling. Located to each side of the entrance bay are large glass display windows fitted atop a paneled knee wall. The outer edges of the commercial front is flanked by fluted pilaster that rise to an intact mid-level cornice that stretches across the full front of the commercial block. The side entrance to the second story is flanked by the same fluted pilasters, and the Victorian door has colored glass panes in the glazed panel above the lock rail and two-panel below. A seam in the metal cornice work on the left (south) side suggests a reworking of the cornice work to extend across the alleyway extension. The second story is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of four single-pane sash windows fitted with limestone lintels and sills. The alleyway addition is pierced by a large single-pane picture sized window. There is a slightly irregular pointing to the brickwork above the picture window and a seam in the main cornice that also points to the second period extension of the building to join the Nathan commercial block with an adjacent three-story brick structure, also erected by Meyer Nathan, around 1893-96. The decorative pressed metal cornice that finishes the top of the parapet wall is finished with a row of modillion blocks between a paneled frieze and crown molding. The ends of the cornice are finished with ball finial blocks finished with a scrolled and fluted face.

The rear wall is laid in five-course common bond with an asymmetrical fenestration of two-over-two sash windows topped by segmental jack arches. An interior wall stove chimney stack rises above the shed roof.

The interior of first floor office space is relatively intact and retains a pressed metal ceiling and original late nineteenth-century safe. The second floor office space was not inspected.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-430

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Nathan commercial block is located on the north side of High Street in a row of two- and three-story buildings erected during the decade after the July 1892 fire that swept part of Cambridge. The street elevation of the commercial block is unusual in that it includes a bridged alleyway on the left (southwest) side. The High Street elevation is little changed since the late nineteenth century with pressed metal cornices that stretch across the storefront as well as the top of the pressed brick stretcher bond structure. The storefront as well as the first floor office interior combines Victorian and neoclassical elements common to the last decade of the nineteenth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Nathan commercial block located at 319 High Street, used variously as a bank or alternative business purposes, was erected by Meyer Nathan around 1897 as one of four principal brick buildings erected between the first and the turn of the twentieth century. The well-preserved front elevation of closely laid pressed brick in narrow butter joints is combined with an intact first floor storefront as well as pressed metal cornices that stretch across the structure in two locations, at the top of the parapet wall as well as above the Victorian storefront. The earliest issue of the Sanborn Insurance maps that indicates a building at this location was printed in 1901 when the first floor was used as a jewelry store.¹ By the time the next map was published in 1906, a bank occupied the first floor commercial space. Meyer family ownership of this property lasted until 1982.²

¹ Sanborn Insurance Map, May 1901, Library of Congress.

² Dorchester County Land Record, 224/513, 21 October 1982, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-430

Name Nathan Commerical Block
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Nathan Commercial Block
319 High Street

Chain-of-title

PLC 250/234

High Street Square Association

to

5.26.1988

Victor H. MacSorley and Linda M. MacSorley

224/513

Mercantile-Safe Deposit & Trust Company, Trustee
under the Last Will and Testament of Milford Nathan

to

10.21.1982

High Street Square Association

Survey of land of Milford Nathan, dated 5.19.1982,
PLC 28/56

Lease CL 9/716

William H. Barton, Jr.

to

6.13.1887

Meyer Nathan

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-430

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD Quandrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

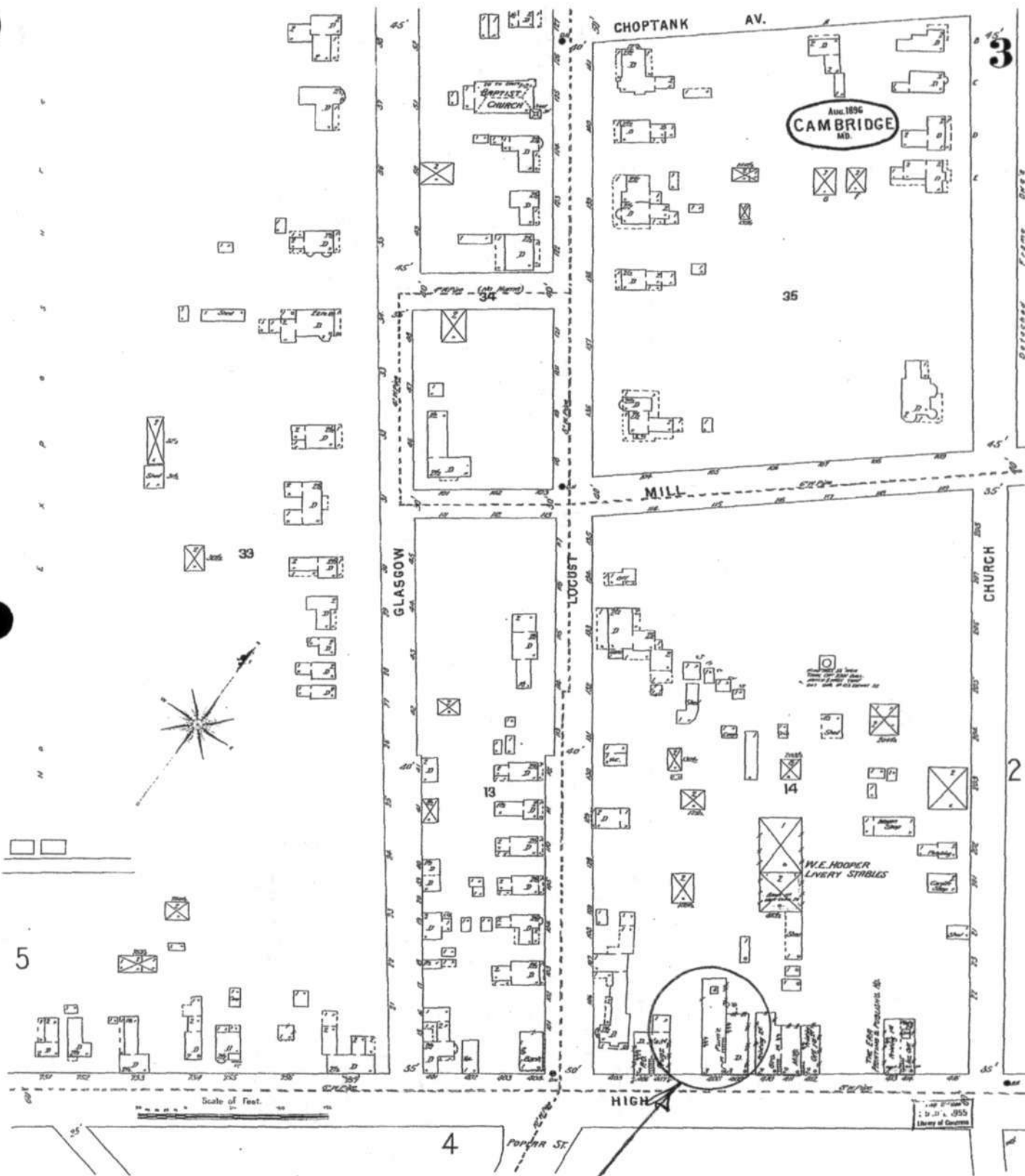
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	8/28/2007
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

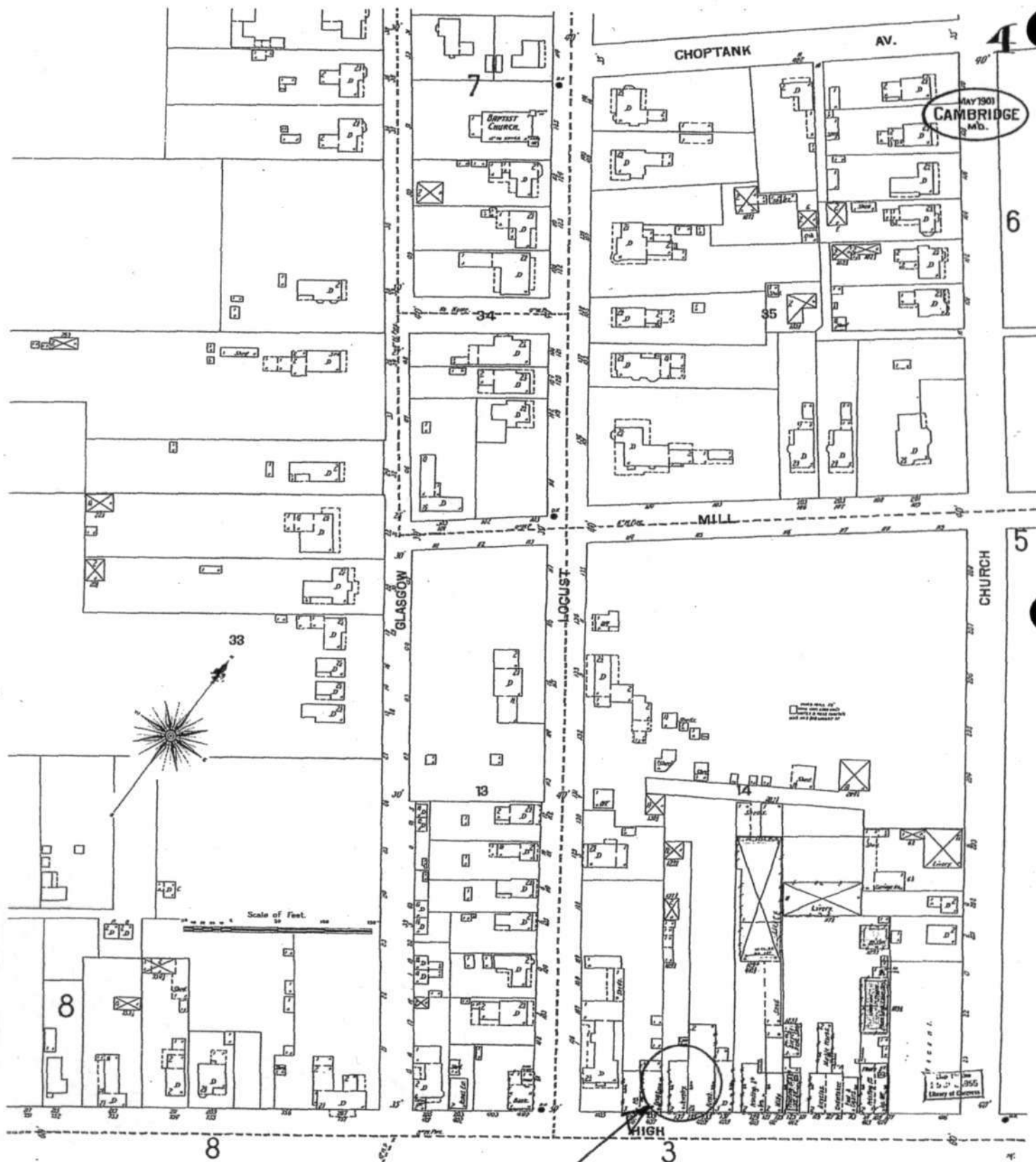
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

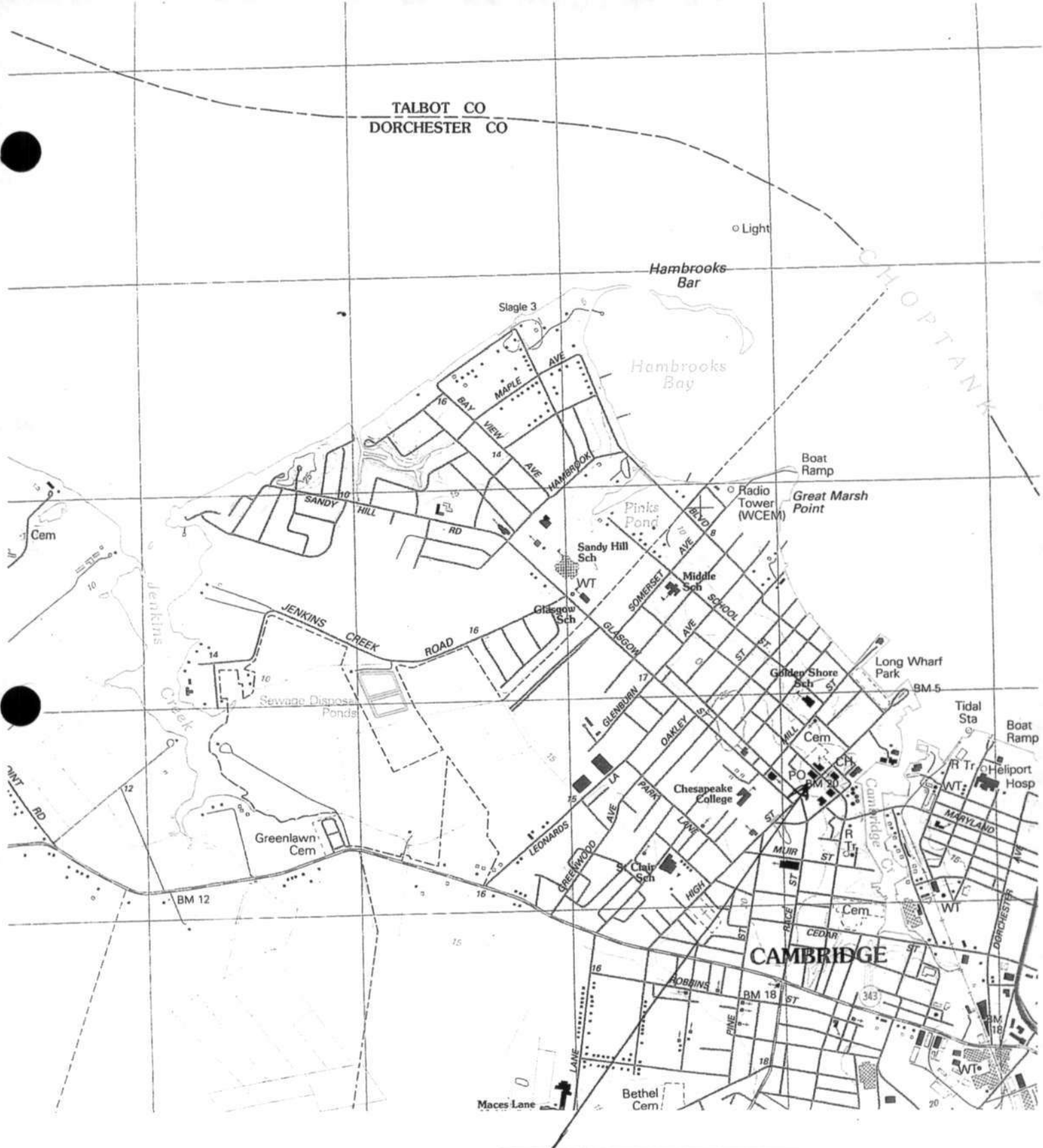


D-430, Nathan Commercial Block
 - Cambridge, MD Sanborn Insurance -
 Map-1896



D-430, Nathan Commercial Block
- Sanborn Insurance Map- 1901

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-430, Nathan Commercial Block
- Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988 -



D-430

NATHAN COMMERCIAL BLOCK
CAMBRIDGE, DUKESBORO C. MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

8/07, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
N.H./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

$\frac{1}{3}$



D-430

NATHAN COMMERCIAL BLOCK
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

8/07, PAUL TOLART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NTH / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2/3



D-490

NOTMAN COMMERCIAL BLOCK

319 14th Street

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co. MA

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

6/07, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTO.

WEL. / AND HISTORICAL TRUST

3/3

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D-430

1004303811

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

319 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Milford Nathan Estate

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-430

CONDITION**CHECK ONE****CHECK ONE**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story brick building adjoins 317 and 321 High Street. It appears that this building originally consisted of the four bays to the north and that the end bay on the south, which consists of one bay over an alleyway to the rear of the building, was added sometime in the 20th century. The window in this bay is a large modern window, that contrasts with the more traditional windows in the other bays. The cornice is ornamented with carved modillions and fluted brackets at the corners. There is another cornice between the first and second stories. On the first story is a recessed double door between two large windows, and another door to the north of this flanked by fluted pilasters and ornamented by two carved brackets in the cornice above.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 00-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small building has been altered little except for the addition of the end bay on the south side. The architectural details of this building contribute to the 19th century character of this block of High Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/3/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

319 High Street
Cambridge, Maryland

Add reference: W/R APM 1/479

D-430

This part of Nathan's Furniture Store was built in 1937.

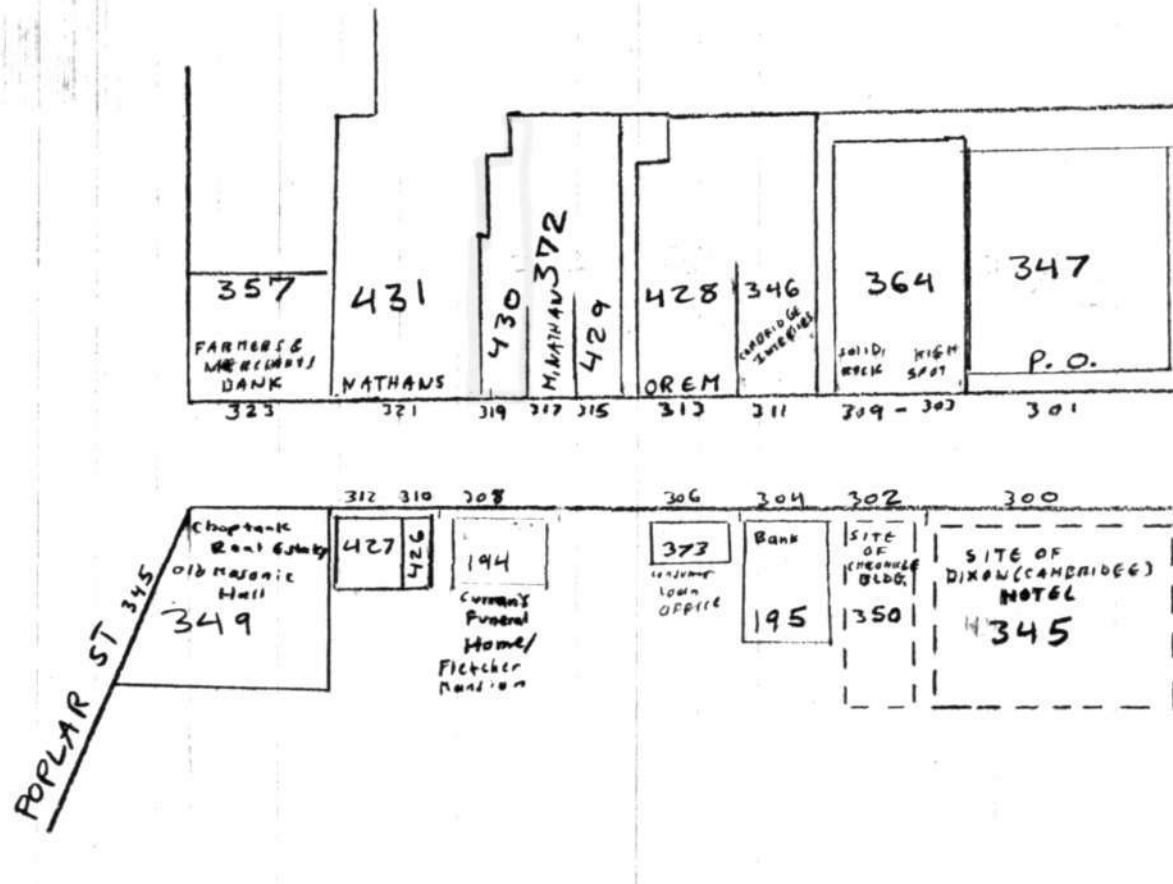
Sources:

"Nathan's Stores Are Eastern Shore Area Community Center,"
Furniture World, June 16, 1952, pp. 40-41.

Research by:

Terrance P. Walbert

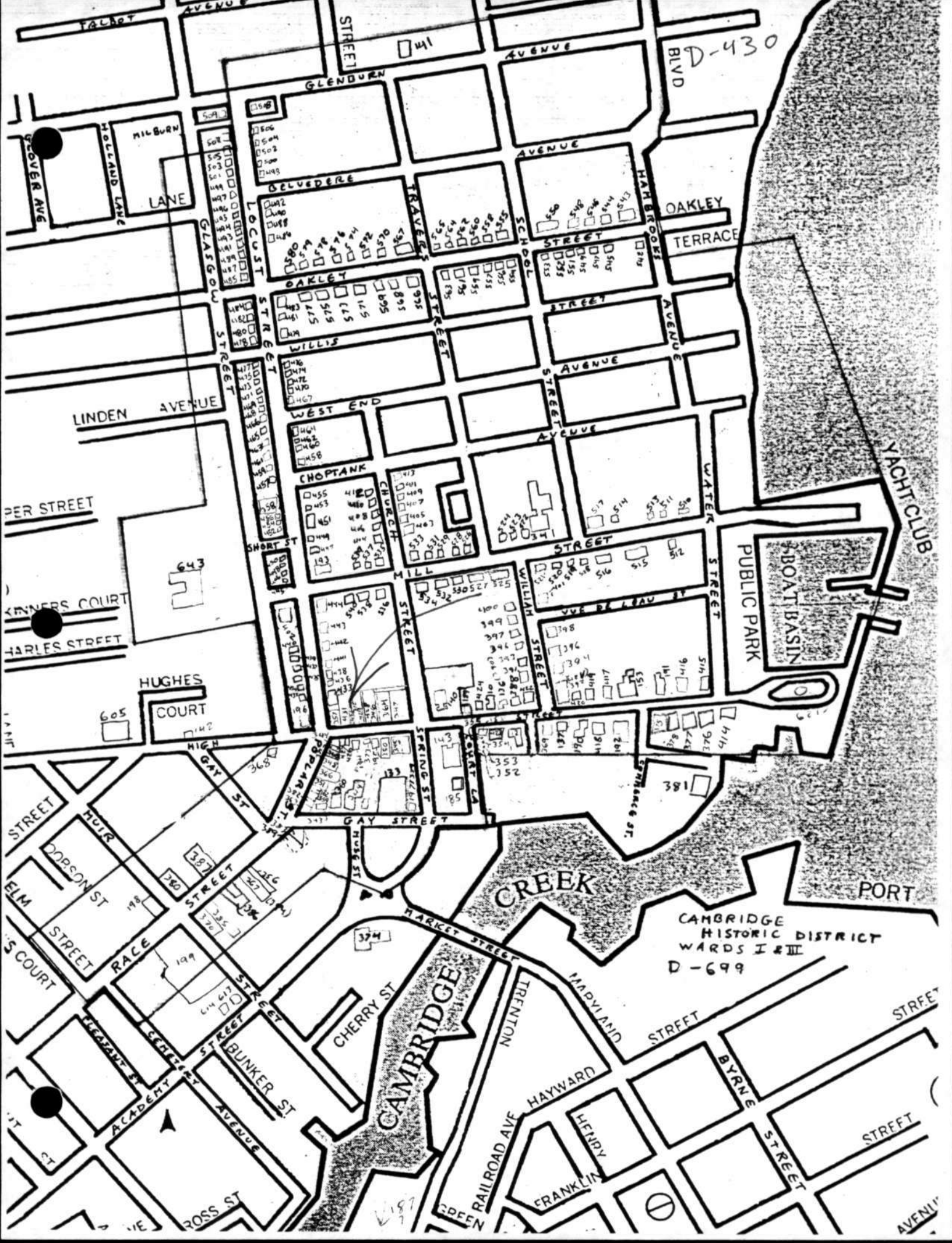
1976



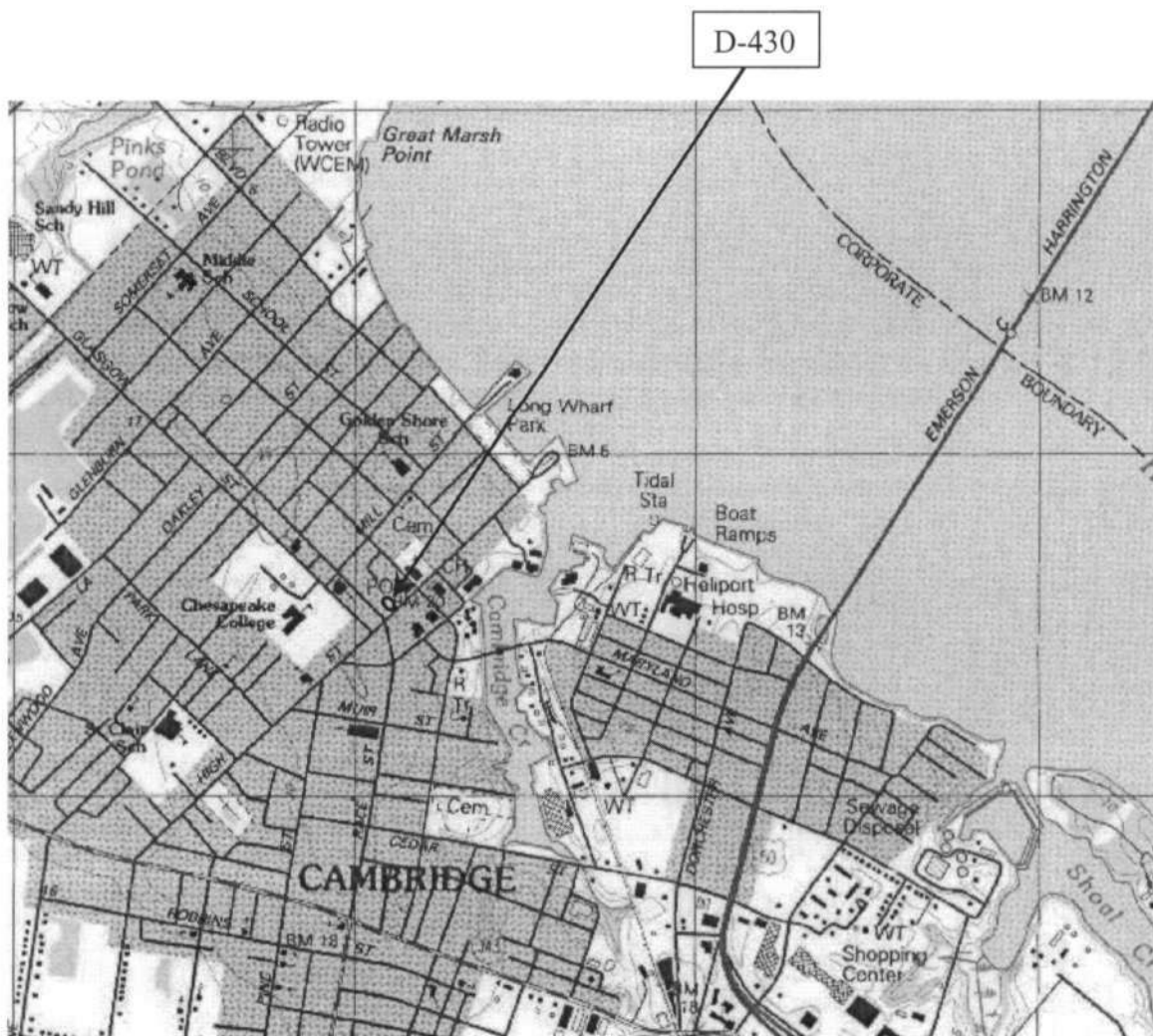
HIGH STREET
← (300 BLOCK)

J. KOZLAY
12/21/93

D-430



D-430
319 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.



The map shows a city block with the following features:

- Streets:** Church (top), Locust (bottom), and Spring (right).
- Buildings:**
 - Church:** A large complex at the top, including "CHRIST CHURCH", "THE AMERICAN MEMORIAL", and "THE AMERICAN CHURCH".
 - Post Office:** Located on the right side of the block.
 - Garage:** Located in the center of the block, labeled "GARAGE".
 - Bank:** Located on the right side of the block, labeled "BANK".
 - Other Buildings:** Various smaller buildings are shown throughout the block, some labeled with letters like "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L", "M", "N", "O", "P", "Q", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W", "X", "Y", "Z".
- Annotations:**
 - A circled area on the right side of the block is labeled "D-430" with an arrow pointing to it.
 - The number "5" is written in a box on the right side of the map.
 - The number "21" is written at the bottom center of the map.
- Scale and Orientation:**
 - A scale bar is located at the bottom center, labeled "1/4 MILE".
 - A north arrow is located at the bottom right, labeled "N".

D-430

5



319 HIGH ST, CAMBRIDGE, MD. (~~NE~~ EAST FACADE) -

C.L. MOORE, 1976

D-430

48%